



GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK OF THE REGENERATIVE VITICULTURE ASSOCIATION


Standardization body:

Regenerative Viticulture Association

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Content

1.	General introduction	3
2.	Certification program management	4
3.	Improvement of existing standards	5
4.	Scope and Structure:	7
5.	Demonstration of compliance	10
6.	Initial Requirements to apply for Certification	13
7.	Soil health and land management (Indicators)	15
8.	Soil health and land management (Practices)	18
9.	Animal Welfare	23
10.	Equity for winegrowers and workers	24
11.	Annexes	28
12.	Appendix	31
13.	Certification Resources	48

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

1. General introduction

As viticulture practices continue to evolve, it is essential that approaches to land management and associated processes focus on contributing to the health of ecosystems, including human communities. Regenerative Viticulture Alliance Certified™ (RVA Certified™) builds on and promotes the legacy of nearly 100 years of visionaries of the organic movement such as J. I. Rodale, Lady Eve Balfour, Dr Rudolf Steiner, Sir Albert Howard and the knowledge of generations of diverse and holistic producers.


The objective of RVA Certified is to promote holistic viticulture practices in a comprehensive certification which:

- It increases soil organic matter over time and fixes carbon below and above ground, which could be a method to mitigate climate change;
- It improves animal welfare; and
- Provides economic stability and equity to winegrowers and workers.

RVA Certified™ rests of three pillars: Soil health and land management, Animal welfare and Equity of the winegrower and the worker.

RVA Certified™ has two levels: RVA Certified™ (Green) and RVA Transition™ (Brown). Each requires compliance with a different number and scope of regenerative practices. See the "Scope and Structure" section for full details.

Regenerative practices are described in each module and key terms are described in the appendix. These include important practices and definitions that are referenced and based on the guidelines for each module. For producers in transition, familiarity with these practices and definitions can act as the first step in incorporating regenerative practices into their operations before officially applying for certification.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


This document includes an overview of the RVA Certified program and the formal criteria required to obtain it. All documents, forms, worksheets and other certification resources can be found at RVA Certification - Regenerative Viticulture Association.

2. Certification program management

RVA Certified is supervised by the non-profit organization Association for Regenerative Viticulture (hereinafter RVA). The RVA is a group of experts in viticulture, soil health, biodiversity, animal welfare and farmer and worker equity. The RVA was established to continually review and update the RVA Certified guidelines.

The founders of RVA, as well as the organizations and companies currently represented on the Board of Directors are as follows:

- **Chairman:** Jean Leon, S.L. having designated in the person of Mr. Miguel Torres Maczassek
- **Deputy Chairman:** Agroassessor Consultors Tècnics, S.L. having designated in the person of Mr. Francesc Font Rovira
- **Treasurer:** Agroassessor Consultors Tècnics, S.L. having designated in the person of Mr. Eduard Muixach Roig
- **Secretary:** Miguel Torres, S.A. having designated in the person of Ms. Montserrat Catasús Asenjo.
- **Members:**
 - Jean Leon, S.L. having designated in the person of Ms. Mireia Torres Maczassek
 - Clos Mogador, S.L. having designated in the person of Mr. Christian René Barbier Meyer
 - Huguet de Can Feixes, S.L. having designated in the person of Mr. Juan María Huguet Gusi.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

The review subcommittees for RVA Certified are composed of the following stakeholders:


- Farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers
- Auditors
- Social and animal welfare non-governmental organizations
- Experienced farm animal veterinarians
- Agricultural economists
- Environmental non-governmental organizations
- Certification and standards experts and qualified trade organizations
- Retailers, food companies and brands that support regenerative practices

3. Improvement of existing standards

Minimum base requirement: Certification of organic farming or International Equivalent or engaged in organic practices over the past 3 years.

RVA Certified adds criteria and is based on organic practices and/or equivalent standards. To obtain RVA Certified, the producer or winegrower must be able to demonstrate that they have an organic certification or international equivalent or demonstrate that in the last 3 years they have carried out organic practices on the holdings or plots to be certified, if they do not have an accreditation to this effect.

Operations will not be eligible for RVA Certified at any level until they are able to demonstrate through an audit conducted during the certification process that they have an organic certification or have met the minimum 3-year transition to organic farming if they are not certified. This verification audit of organic practices in the absence of organic certification, shall not, under any circumstance, serve to obtain an official certification of organic farming.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

Participation in transition programs is an asset but is not sufficient to be eligible for RVA Certified. A review by the certifying entity based on national and international organic farming standards (EU, NOP, CCPAE, etc.) will be necessary to accept the transition to organic farming.


Organic practices to comply with if not certified in organic or ecological farming:

- Prohibition of the use of chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, antibiotics and other synthetic substances.
- Use of soil-friendly tillage and cultivation practices.
- Prohibition of the use of genetically modified organisms
- Use of crop rotation so that on-site resources are used efficiently.
- Prioritization of resources produced on site, such as on-farm manure for fertilizer or feed produced on the farm.
- Choice of appropriate species and varieties that are adapted to local conditions and have greater resistance to pests and diseases.

It is the responsibility of the winegrowers to ensure the following:

- Best environmental practices
- An important level of biodiversity
- Preservation of natural resources
- High standards of social and labour welfare
- High standards of animal welfare

To become RVA Certified, all requirements listed in this document must be met; and all products sold, labelled or represented as regenerative viticulture must also comply with organic product regulations and equivalent standards. International growers applying for RVA Certified must be certified with an authorized international equivalent of organic and/or ecological farming.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

This framework is a living document and will therefore be continually reviewed by a committee of experts as new and better practices emerge. At the same time, RVA Certified will always be linked, at a minimum, to all requirements, policies, interpretations and determinations observed in organic practices and certifications or International equivalents and to authorized third-party certifying bodies that grant organic certifications. Any ambiguity or problem that arises regarding the application of the RVA Certified program will always be resolved in a manner consistent with organic requirements when the issue falls within the scope of organic practices or certification.

Other applicable certifications

Producers can demonstrate compliance with RVA Certified criteria by taking advantage of certifications they have already obtained, such as Animal Welfare Approved or Demeter Biodynamic, Fair For Life, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, SMETA 4 pillars and others.

4. Scope and Structure:


Scope

RVA Certified covers the requirements for regenerative viticulture practices. The holdings and/or plots where regenerative viticulture practices are carried out can be of any size. RVA Certified seeks to create a change in the wine industry to scale best practices to stakeholders, from the winegrower to the consumer, including administrations and regulators.

Structure

RVA Certified rests on three pillars: Soil health and land management, Animal welfare and Social equity, with the required criteria for each.

There are two levels of RVA Certified certification:

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

- RVA Transition™ (Brown) representing the initial level.
- RVA Certified™ (green) representing the highest level achievable in regenerative viticulture production.


This tiered approach allows producers to adjust and adapt their practices over time and enables continuous improvement. Certification audits will be conducted every three years and to make the certification body's verification process more efficient, the RVA has developed an APP for mobile devices that winegrowers should use to periodically document the practices they employ. The winegrower must also carry out an annual self-assessment in the App, which will serve as a guide for the certification process. Failure to use the App by the winegrower will be grounds for terminating the RVA Certified process.

Processors and brand owners with RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seals will conduct annual chain of custody certification audits to obtain the seal associated with the finished product.

Levels of RVA certification:

- **RVA Transition™:** to request 100% certification level of the holding and/or grape producing parcel, it must be certified in organic agriculture or comply with the 3 years of equivalent practices indicated in the previous point. It shall also comply with the list of criteria required for this level of certification.
- **RVA Certified™:** to request 100% certification level of the holding and/or grape producing parcel, it must be certified in organic agriculture or comply with the 3 years of equivalent practices indicated in the previous point. It shall also comply with the list of criteria required for this level of certification.

The certificate can only be issued 9 to 12 months after the winegrower has committed to the RVA certification program.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

Winemaker criteria include specific sections of each pillar that must be verified through an on-site audit for any producer, winemaker and product that is certified and/or has the RVA Certified standard seal.

Labelling guidelines for the manufacture and processing of finished products are described in detail in the "RVA Certified Labelling Guidelines and Terms of Use" and the Supply Chain Guidelines. "


The Soil Health and Land Management, Animal Welfare and Farmer and Worker Equity modules all contain criteria for each level of certification, which provide guidance and which operations must comply with according to the level of certification requested. The criteria include practices that are:

- **Required Practices (R):** Practices that operations must comply with for an operation to be eligible for RVA Certified at the desired level.
- **Optional Practices (O):** Practices that are encouraged for all, but not required, at a particular level.

To achieve the RVA Certified level, 100% of the practices required for that level must be completed. Participation at any level of RVA certification requires that the entity be duly certified as organic by an accredited certifying body or demonstrate that in the last 3 years it has engaged in organic practices on the farms or parcels to be certified, if it does not have an accreditation that so certifies.

Failure to pass subsequent audits or follow-up checks required by RVA will result in RVA withdrawing the certificate and removing the producer/winery from the database.

In the case of special audits of an individual case following the detection of serious infringements or the detection of serious legal infringements during the audit, RVA may immediately decide to withdraw the certificate, whereby the regular period of validity of the certificate would be revoked.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

The RVA Sanctions Catalogue document includes the criteria and definitions of the different breaches that could invalidate the obtaining and/or use of the certificate or seal.


The document RVA CERTIFICATE SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE sets out the guidelines to be followed for each of the cases in which the certificate or seal may be suspended and/or withdrawn. The winegrower or winemaker may file an objection to this sanction using the form included in this procedure.

5. Demonstration of compliance

All levels of RVA certification require producers to comply with local, provincial/state, national and international laws for animal welfare, labour rights and land management. In addition, organic requirements and practices or their international equivalents are a baseline for certification in RVA; therefore, producers must comply with all organic certification requirements that apply to them geographically. No provision of this Framework or any element of the RVA program shall be interpreted or applied in a manner that is inconsistent with organic farming requirements or policies. The higher requirement, either local law or RVA, applies to each section of the standard.

In order to demonstrate compliance, winegrowers and winemakers should follow the requirements included in the list of practices of the RVA standard. To facilitate the planning of the regenerative practices to be carried out, RVA will make available a template for each producer or winemaker to program their work plan (Regenerative Practices Planning Template).

In order to avoid redundant work and conduct efficient audits, external auditors will only audit additional requirements that are not found in the certifications that the producer or winegrower may have (Organic or

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


Ecological Certification, Fair For Live, Animal Welfare Certification, SA8000, ISO 14001, SMETA 4 pillars, etc).

Cost structure

The RVA exists to promote certification in regenerative viticulture as the highest standard for viticulture worldwide. Our goal is to empower producers, winegrowers, winemakers and to raise consumer awareness so as to create a better world through regenerative viticulture. RVA has established competitively priced rates for the RVA Certified program to make it accessible to growers and wineries of all sizes and scopes. RVA values our global community of regenerative winegrowers producers and aims to establish a transparent and financially affordable fee structure. RVA's "Quota and Fee Structure" document describes the estimated certification costs for RVA Certified winegrowers and wineries.

While costs may vary depending on the size and scope of the operation, geographic location, sales volume, etc., the value proposition of the RVA Certified brand is high. All available resources will be used to support Winegrowers in the transition to RVA Certified.

To be eligible for RVA certification, the winegrower and/or winemaker must be up to date with their payment of the RVA membership fee and have paid the RVA certification application fee.


ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

6. Initial Requirements to apply for Certification


In this module, RVA seeks to facilitate the minimum requirements that all winegrowers must meet or demonstrate that they have begun the process of converting their farms to regenerative viticulture.

Initial requirements to apply for Certification

No.	Criteria	Guide	Transition (*)	Advanced (*)
1.1	The operating procedure shall have a documented plan for defining practices related to regenerative agriculture with details of timelines for implementation and objectives to be achieved over time.	Verification through review of the documented plan through the Task Planning Template (Excel document included in the documentation area of the RVA website), plus an interview with the manager of the operating procedure to confirm that the practices and their benefits are correctly understood. The plan will include the starting point (previous practices, initial organic matter content, existing biodiversity on the property...), which will help define a roadmap leading to a clear improvement of soil health.	This plan will be established with the practices and commitment (12 months) will be confirmed through a certification or documents that accredit these practices.	The plan has been in place for 3 years (or less if the improvement is notable), and the practices are maintained/improved based on the results of 1 cycle (3 years) through certification or documents accrediting these practices.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

1.2	The monitoring units will be defined in a maximum of 10 ha of production (identifying homogeneous zones taking into account the orogenic profile - relief - and soil profile of the farms). Each unit must have defined sampling points (with a traceable GPS location), extract soil samples and take photographs showing the evolution of the farm.	An initial set of photographs, taken from a predefined angle and in a position with known traceability (geolocated with GPS) will have to be taken during the first external audit, and then repeated annually in spring, summer and autumn. (See annex V)	The photograph(s) (at least 1 per monitoring unit) shall be available prior to the initial (external) inspection.	Photographs, taken annually at the same location and from the same angle as the identified monitoring units, should be available and should clearly show the permanence of the groundcover and species diversity.
1.3	The winegrower (or the person in charge of implementing the regenerative practices) should be trained in regenerative agriculture.	A 4-hour initial training organized by RVA will be mandatory for all applicants for certification (minimum 1 person per holding). The cost shall be borne by the holding.	The initial training provided by the RVA must be accredited.	The initial training provided by the RVA must be accredited.


ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

7. Soil health and land management (Indicators)


RVA's Soil Health and Land Management module seeks to facilitate the adoption of viticulture practices that build on, rather than degrade soils by increasing soil organic matter, biodiversity and fertility.

Standards for soil health and land management.

No.	Criteria	Guide	Transition (*)	Advanced (*)
1.4	Quantitative analyses of soil health (physicochemical parameters). It should be analysed periodically to confirm the positive effects of the practices implemented at field level. Every three years, one analysis per monitoring unit must be carried out in an accredited laboratory.	The analyses must contain at least: -Organic matter -PH -CEC (cation exchange capacity) -Electrical conductivity of soil -Total organic and inorganic carbon -Minerals: Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium. Samples should be taken according to sampling protocols.	A starting point is determined according to the different parameters analysed (starting point).	No deterioration is observed in the parameters analysed compared to the baseline analyses.


ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

1.5	Quantitative analyses of soil health (microbiological parameters). It should be analysed periodically to confirm the positive effects of the practices implemented at field level. Every three years, one analysis per monitoring unit must be carried out in an accredited laboratory.	The analyses shall contain at least: - Count and relative proportion of microbiological biomass: Fungi, Bacteria, Nematodes and Protozoa. Samples will be taken according to the sampling protocol.	A starting point is determined according to the different parameters analysed (starting point).	No deterioration is observed in the parameters analysed compared to the baseline analyses.
1.6	Quantitative analyses of soil health should be analysed periodically to confirm the positive effects of the practices implemented at field level.	The parameters to be analysed are as follows: -Soil compaction -Soil erosion -Soil structure -Water infiltration capacity -Macrobiotic Diversity Analyses will be performed following qualitative soil analysis protocols.	A starting point is determined according to the different parameters analysed (starting point).	No deterioration is observed in the parameters analysed compared to the baseline analyses.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

1.7	The findings of the monitoring units will be treated in accordance with the results, and corrections to the plan will be implemented in time to achieve the expected results (for analyses, see 1.4).	The self-assessment should be documented and can be carried out by the winegrower and/or a trained assessor. If deviations are observed, sufficient corrections must be made to return to the positive trend.	There will be annual self-evaluation recorded in the annual planning document that will confirm the positive evolution of regenerative activities at the holding level and (if necessary) the actions taken when a deviation from the objectives is detected.	There will be annual self-evaluation recorded in the annual planning document that will confirm the positive evolution of regenerative activities at the holding level and (if necessary) the actions taken when a deviation from the objectives is detected.
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8. Soil health and land management (Practices)

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


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Standards for soil health and land management.


No.	Criteria	Guide	Transition (*)	Advanced (*)
2.1	The plots will have the space between the rows covered with perennial vegetative cover throughout the year (to be defined by location/latitude, depending on rainfall).	Native vegetation or seed mixtures will be maintained as hedges between vineyard rows.	A minimum of 50% of the total production area should be reached during the first year, and in 3 years a minimum of 75% of the total production area. If this level is not reached, the winegrower will have another 3-year cycle to reach 75%. If after 6 years this level has not been reached, the winegrower will lose the transitional level certificate and will only be able to apply for a new certification for the advanced level.	At least 75% of the total production area.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


2.2	Coverage can be managed in two ways: With Rational Grazing and/or Mechanical Control and addition of organic fertilizers.	Both the organic fertilizer and the support grazing should be known and local.	There is no evidence of herbicide use, the content of organic fertilizer is known.	There is no evidence of herbicide use, the content of organic fertilizer is known.
2.3	To maintain vegetative cover throughout the year (see 2.1), the soil structure will not be altered.	Tillage is eliminated or minimized (maximum 10-15 cm depth). Sporadic use should be justified.	Gentle tillage may be carried out on the uncovered areas and on the back (see section 2.1).	Gentle tillage may be carried out on the back (see section 2.1)
2.4	No erosion will be observed and corrective action will be taken if it exists.	Cultivation practices will be used to prevent soil erosion.	There will be planning and commitment to carry out corrective actions to minimize erosion.	Corrective actions to minimize erosion have been taken.
2.5	Increased plant diversity of groundcover.	Identification of different species in groundcovers.	There shall be covers between the rows of the vines, with at least 2 different species.	There shall be covers between the rows of the vines, with at least 4 different species.
2.6	The holding has areas of biodiversity and natural habitats.	The total area of the holding shall include the productive area (rows of vines) and the perimeter subject to the	The area identified as natural habitat or biodiversity area shall be kept intact and shall	The area identified as natural habitat or biodiversity area shall be kept intact and shall

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

		<p>management/ownership of the winegrower.</p> <p>Conserve and restore natural water bodies, wetlands, riparian zones, and their associated habitats, if any.</p> <p>Vineyards that have not resulted in the clearing of virgin primary forests or primary secondary forests and have not converted wetlands, peatlands or protected grasslands to agricultural production.</p>	<p>represent a minimum of 5% of the total area of the holding.</p> <p>These areas may include, for example: windbreaks, plot margins, roads adjacent to cultivated areas, canals, rivers, etc.</p>	<p>represent over 5% of the total area of the holding.</p> <p>These areas may include, for example: windbreaks, plot margins, roads adjacent to cultivated areas, canals, rivers, etc.</p> <p>Extensions of the biodiversity area will be made with native species whenever possible, trying to maintain a diversity of structure and composition.</p>
2.7	The use of fertilizer/plant protection products will be minimized and environmentally friendly.	<p>The limited use of copper (4 kg/Ha/year and 28 kg/Ha/year/ 7 years) and always complying with the ecological/organic regulations (EU, National or International), which may apply to the use of this product.</p> <p>The use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is not allowed.</p>	<p>There will be a fertilization and plant protection plan based on past data (productivity, pest/disease history, and application of agricultural chemicals during the previous season(s)) and no use of</p>	<p>There will be a fertilization and plant protection plan based on past data (productivity, pest/disease history, and application of agricultural chemicals during the previous season(s)) and no use of</p>

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

		<p>The use of organic nitrogen and phosphors will be allowed, but it must be documented and comply with the ecological/organic regulations (EU, National or International), which may apply for this type of product.</p> <p>The operating procedure shall not use genetically modified additives or processing aids such as fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, seeds, or crops derived from genetically modified sources.</p>	synthetic fertilizers and pesticides will be observed.	synthetic fertilizers and pesticides will be observed.
2.8	Efficient use of water used in irrigation systems, if used.	There will be an efficient irrigation system (drip or sprinkler with programmers)	<p>If there is irrigation, the system should be as efficient as possible and the amount of water used should be recorded.</p> <p>Documentation of legalization and water extraction will be presented.</p>	<p>If there is irrigation, the system should be as efficient as possible and the amount of water used should be recorded; a reduction (in l/kg produced) within the cycle (3 years) will be assessed.</p> <p>Documentation of legalization and water extraction will be presented.</p>


ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

9. Animal Welfare

The Animal Welfare module within RVA seeks to ensure humane practices in the breeding and/or handling of animals that are destined for regenerative viticulture activities. For operations that do not involve animals destined to this activity, or have an Animal Welfare certification or international equivalent, this section is not applicable and shall be considered complied with for the purpose of achieving RVA Certified certification.

Standards for animal welfare

No.	Criteria	Guide	Transition (*)	Advanced (*)
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ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

3.1	When animals are used in vineyards, the five rights of animal welfare freedoms and any other species-specific requirements must be respected.	Animals should have the right to live free from hunger and thirst; the right to live free from discomfort; the right to live free from pain, injury and disease; the right to express their normal behaviour; and the right to live without fear and distress.	When animals are used, they shall have access to fresh food and water, shall be kept free of suffering and in good health, shall not suffer any physical pain, shall be able to express their natural behaviour, and shall be accommodated in a manner that does not create distress.	When animals are used, they shall have access to fresh food and water, shall be kept free of suffering and in good health, shall not suffer any physical pain, shall be able to express their natural behaviour, and shall be accommodated in a manner that does not create distress.
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10. Equity for winegrowers and workers


The scope of the Grower, Processor and Worker Equity module within RVA includes guidelines that apply to all workers on the holding regardless of where regenerative viticulture activities are performed.

Monitoring and enforcement must benefit and prioritize workers. No violation of these guidelines or requirements is allowed, and progress and improvement plans must be documented. Emphasis should be placed on capacity building and continuous improvement to improve the social and economic position of winegrowers and workers.


ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

Social welfare standards


No.	Criteria	Guide	Transition (*)	Advanced (*)
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ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


4.1	The winegrower will be registered with the social security and tax authorities. The producer must have a business license and/or the necessary permits to carry out their activity. They must also be up to date with the payment of mandatory social contributions and the corresponding taxes.	They must be registered with the social security and tax authorities in the case of winegrowers and the current business license or the necessary permits in the case of winemakers. In both cases, the company must be up to date in the payment of mandatory social contributions and taxes.	A social security and tax registration document must be presented in the case of winegrowers, and the current business license or permit in the case of winemakers. Likewise, a certificate issued by the corresponding social security agency will be requested, stating that the company is up to date in the payment of social security contributions and a certificate issued by the tax agency stating that the company is up to date in the payment of taxes.	A social security and tax registration document must be presented in the case of winegrowers, and the current business license or permit in the case of winemakers. Likewise, a certificate issued by the corresponding social security agency will be requested, stating that the company is up to date in the payment of social security contributions and a certificate issued by the tax agency stating that the company is up to date in the payment of taxes.
4.2	ILO conventions related to forced labour, minimum age and child labour, in-country work permits, etc., must always be respected.	All workers, regardless of their type of contract, must have their working conditions well defined and not violate the agreements cited in the standard.	There may be no cases based on documentary evidence (contracts, payroll, in-country	There may be no cases based on documentary evidence (contracts, payroll, in-country

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

		Migrant workers must have a work permit in the country.	work permits) and/or interviews with employees.	work permits) and/or interviews with employees.
4.3	Collective bargaining applicable (if any) to all workers shall be respected and they shall have the right to organize through representation.	The right to have a workers' representative that can oversee the labour rights of the personnel before the management, through periodic meetings or direct contact, must be ensured.	There will be no issues related to workers' rights that have not been addressed or resolved between employees and management.	There will be no issues related to workers' rights that have not been addressed or resolved between employees and management.
4.4	Human rights shall be respected in all rights and there shall be no discrimination on any grounds, including but not limited to: ethnicity, race, minority status, religion/belief, age, gender identity/expression, disability, language, gender, sexual characteristics or orientation.	Discrimination shall include the concepts of harassment, sexual harassment and abuse-related issues.	There may be no cases based on documentary evidence and/or interviews with employees in the last year.	There may be no cases based on documentary evidence and/or interviews with employees in the last 3 years.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

4.5	There will be an occupational risk analysis for the activities carried out on the holding and/or processors' facility and a prevention plan. Workers' housing, when provided, shall comply with minimum hygiene and safety conditions.	<p>The occupational risk analysis will be documented, paying special attention to each activity.</p> <p>The prevention plan shall include training and/or the provision of protective equipment.</p> <p>The workers' housing provided shall comply with the requirements included in Annex IV of the Standard.</p>	<p>Risk analysis will be carried out and prevention measures will be effectively implemented.</p> <p>The conditions of workers' housing shall be reviewed according to the criteria in Annex IV in the event that they are provided.</p>	<p>Risk analysis shall be carried out and prevention measures shall be implemented effectively, and a record shall be kept of the number of major incidents indicating the reasons for them.</p> <p>The conditions of workers' housing shall be reviewed according to the criteria in Annex IV in the event that they are provided.</p>
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ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

11. Annexes

Optional RVA best practices for winegrowers

1- Water Management

1.1: Design of new vineyards in Key Line 1.2: Construction of ponds
1.3: Collection of rainwater 1.4: Recycling and reuse of wastewater

1.5: Irrigation Optimization Options if used (see also 2.8)

- Use Inground Irrigation (to improve water efficiency)

- Use of pumping systems powered by renewable energies

2- Use of Phytotherapy

Use of phytotherapy and other natural preparations to reduce copper and sulphur.

3- Natural methods of soil improvement

Biofertilizers, Biostimulants, Biochar, BRF, incorporation of pruning waste, etc., and more so if they are made with resources from the holding itself.

Increase the resting time of the grubbed vineyard as much as possible before a new planting.


4- Biodiversity improvements

Bee hives, nesting boxes, ponds for amphibians, insectaries and marginal shelters.

Reduce the size of the plots or create biodiversity connectors.

5- Animal Welfare

If you have your own herd, provide grazing areas for the times of the year when the herd cannot be in the vineyard.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

Use the fallowed vineyards as a grazing area.

6- Optional Laboratory Analysis

6.1 Soil Respiration (ppm CO2)

6.2 Metagenomic analysis

6.3 CRAD

6.4 Carbon capture study

6.5 Ideal Soil (Dr William Albrech)

6.6 Infiltration rate

7- Other Observations

7.1 Trial pits

7.2 Arthropods and worms Mustard test (OPVT PROTOCOL DE TERRAIN)

7.3 Soil Chromatography

7.4 Botanical Survey

7.5 Identification of Bioindicator Plants (spring and autumn)

7.6 Other fauna studies

7.7 Use of new technology to optimize product application

(sulphur, copper...)

7.8. Continuous training in the field of regenerative practices.

Organic practices to be complied with, if not certified in organic or ecological farming:

- Prohibition of the use of chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, antibiotics and other synthetic substances.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

- Use of soil-friendly tillage and cultivation practices.
- Prohibition of the use of genetically modified organisms
- Use of crop rotation so that on-site resources are used efficiently.
- Prioritization of resources produced on site, such as on-farm manure for fertilizer or feed produced on the holding.
- Choice of appropriate species and varieties that are adapted to local conditions and can resist parasites and diseases.

European organic farming standards, NOP standards and other national or international organic farming standards will be used as a reference for the auditor's pre-review before being eligible for RVA certification. The most restrictive standard will always apply.

It is the responsibility of the winegrowers **to ensure the following:**

- Best **environmental practices**
- A high level of **biodiversity**
- Preservation of **natural resources**
- High standards of **social and labour welfare**
- High standards of **animal welfare**

Habitability conditions of seasonal and field accommodations for migrant workers Hygiene and safety conditions workers' housing 2

12. Appendix

Glossary of key terms

Soil health and land management

- **Agroforestry:** The practice of incorporating tree cultivation and conservation as part of an agricultural operation. Agroforestry improves soil protection, carbon capture, soil moisture retention rates and biodiversity, while increasing

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


income due to the simultaneous production of trees and crops.

- **Biodiversity:** Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the diversity of life existing at three levels: genetic, species and ecosystem. Biodiversity includes variety in all forms of life, from bacteria and fungi to grasses, ferns, trees, insects and mammals. It encompasses the diversity found at all levels of organization, from genetic differences between individuals and populations (groups of related individuals) to the types of natural communities (groups of interacting species) found in a particular area. Biodiversity also includes the full range of natural processes on which life depends, such as nutrient cycling, carbon and nitrogen fixation, predation, symbiosis and natural succession. The RVA requirements with regard to the soil work to increase above and below ground biodiversity.
- **Carbon Capture:** The process by which atmospheric carbon dioxide is absorbed by trees, grasses and other plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and roots) and soils. For agricultural operations, increased carbon capture may be achieved through, for example, reduced tillage practices, complex crop rotations including forage and green manure crops, agroforestry, reforestation, or the use of amendments containing biomass.
- **Compost:** Compost, when properly managed, results in a high-quality soil amendment. Adding compost can increase the water holding capacity of the soil, helping farmers produce a

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


good crop even in years of low rainfall. Compost improves soil structure and stability, recycles nutrients, stabilizes volatile nitrogen, converts waste into resources and suppresses soil-borne diseases. The composting process destroys weed seeds and pathogenic microorganisms, while beneficial microorganisms grow and multiply in large numbers. Synthetic fertilizers can provide soluble nutrients for plant growth, but they do not build the long-term biological reserves of the soil as well as compost does, and therefore are not allowed under RVA Certified practices.

- **Crop rotation:** Crop rotation is a systemic approach of growing different annual crops and herbaceous perennial crops in succession in the same field. The objectives of crop rotation are to help control soil organic fertility and also to help avoid or reduce problems with diseases, pests and weeds. The more complex and longer the rotation, the greater the benefits. Seven-year rotations that include at least three years of herbaceous perennials are ideal for building soil health. Crop rotations as such are not applicable to perennial woody cropping systems such as orchards and vineyards.
- **Green manure crops:** Cover crops grown specifically for soil building. These typically include shallow tillage to incorporate the crop while it is still green. Roller crimping or irrigation after crop placement is an alternative way to help the green manure crop decompose, especially in perennial systems.
- **Invasive species:** Invasive plants and animals that are not native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	


environmental damage or harm to human health. Invasive species may include plants, animals, and other organisms (for example, microbes). Human actions are the main means of introduction of invasive species.

- **Pastures:** Pastures are a type of land use that has a vegetation cover composed mainly of native or imported forage species used for grazing livestock.
- **Perennial Crops:** Crops that live throughout the year and are harvested several times before dying. Apples and alfalfa are examples of perennials (apples are a woody perennial and alfalfa is an herbaceous perennial) that are already grown and harvested commercially. Perennial plants develop a much larger root mass than annual crops and protect the soil year-round, leaving fields less vulnerable to wind, water and soil erosion.
- **Riparian Areas:** Adjacent plant communities affected by the surface and subsurface hydrologic characteristics of perennial or intermittent moving and standing water bodies (e.g., rivers, streams, lakes, or drainage systems). Riparian areas have one or both of the following characteristics: 1) vegetative species clearly different from adjacent areas, and 2) species similar to adjacent areas but exhibiting more vigorous or robust growth forms. Riparian areas are often transitional areas between wetlands and uplands.
- **Rotational grazing:** Rotational grazing is a livestock production system where cattle graze on a portion of a pasture that has been divided into several fields. Cattle are moved systematically from field to field depending on the growth

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

stage of the forage and the objectives of the grazing system. While one field is being grazed, the rest of the pasture rests. This rest and recovery time maintains forage plants and builds soil organic matter.

- **Silvopasture:** A form of agroforestry, the practice of combining forestry and animal grazing in a mutually beneficial manner. A properly managed silvopasture operation improves soil protection and increases long-term income due to the simultaneous production of trees and grazing animals.
- **Soil health:** Soil health, also known as soil quality, is defined as the continued ability of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that supports plants, animals and humans. Soil is not an inert growing medium, but is being associated with billions of bacteria, fungi and other microbes that are the basis of an elegant symbiotic ecosystem. Soil is an ecosystem that can be managed to provide nutrients for plant growth, absorb and retain rainwater for use during dry periods, filter and alleviate potential pollutants from leaving our fields, act as a base company for agricultural activities, and provide a habitat for soil microbes to flourish and diversify to keep the ecosystem functioning healthily. Improving soil health is one of the key objectives of RVA Certified.
- **Light Tillage:** minimum soil work, without turning over the soil and not reaching a depth of more than 10 cm.
- **Vegetation Cover:** A vegetation or groundcover is the maintenance of plants in place to reduce soil erosion and prevent the drying of soil microbial communities as a result of soil exposure. Vegetation cover will suppress weeds, recycle

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

nutrients back into the soil, increase soil organic matter, capture carbon in the soil, increase soil moisture, and reduce erosion. Maintaining a living vegetation cover throughout the year is ideal, but not possible for most annual production systems.

Animal Welfare

- **Body condition score:** A system of measuring how thin or fat an animal is by reference to a standardized scale.
- **Capacity of pasture:** The average number of animals that can be rotationally grazed on a pasture area during a year without damaging it. It is a measure of the ability of a pasture to produce sufficient forage to meet the requirements of grazing animals.
- **Non-Commercial Livestock Operation:** Non-commercial animals are those that generally have functions, such as draught power, transport, manure production or for educational purposes. The Five Freedoms described below must be demonstrated for all animals.
- **Five Freedoms:** The Animal Welfare module takes advantage of the five animal welfare freedoms, which include:
 1. Freedom from hunger or thirst through easy access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
 2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment that includes shelter and a comfortable resting area
 3. Absence of pain, injury and disease through prevention


ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

or rapid diagnosis and treatment.


4. Freedom to express normal behaviours by providing sufficient space, adequate facilities and companionship of animals of their own species.

5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment that prevent mental suffering

- **Handling:** Animal handling covers the general treatment of animals during the various tasks performed and the requirements of an operation. To minimize the stress, pain and suffering of an animal, RVA prohibits certain practices, such as shoving, beating, shearing, and dehorning (removal of horns).
- **Mobile slaughter unit:** A mobile slaughter unit allows winegrowers to humanely slaughter their animals on site. This reduces the exposure of animals to stressful and inhumane treatment in large-scale slaughter facilities.
- **Monogastrics:** Monogastric animals have a simple single-chambered stomach and these include dogs, pigs, horses and rabbits. Their ability to extract energy from cellulose digestion is less efficient than in ruminants and, therefore, they are allowed to feed on grains.
- **Non-ambulatory animals:** Animals that are unable to get up from a recumbent position or that are unable to walk, including, but not limited to, those with torn appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured spine, or metabolic conditions.
- **Ruminants:** Ruminant species include grass-chewing animals such as cows, goats, bison and sheep. Ruminants are designed


ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Governance Framework of the Regenerative Viticulture Association		
Version: 1	Updated: 29/07/2022	

to eat fibrous grasses, plants and shrubs. A diet high in grain can cause physical problems for ruminants. In addition, when ruminants switch from pasture to grain, they can be affected by numerous disorders, including a common but painful condition called "subacute acidosis."

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	


Farmer and worker equity

- **Atypical employment:** The use of labour-only hiring arrangements, consecutive short-term contracts and/or bogus apprenticeship or other schemes by the organization to avoid complying with its obligations to personnel under applicable labour and social security related laws and regulations.
- **Capacity Building:** The process of developing and strengthening skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources to improve the social and economic position of farmers and workers.
- **Democratic Organizations (International):** The ability of small farmers to organize democratically in order to compete globally.
- **Equal opportunities:** The policy of treating applicants for employment or employees equally without regard to race, colour, gender, pregnancy, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, age, religion, politics of the individual. opinion, national or social origin or other personal characteristics.
- **Fair pay:** Payment sufficient to cover the cost of production, including living wages for workers and equivalent income to farmers, in addition to reinvestment in the farm.
- **Family members:** Those relatives who are directly related to the producer and live in the same household as the producer. It may include parents, spouses, brothers/sisters and children, but does not include aunts/uncles, cousins or other relatives.
- **Freedom of association and collective bargaining:** A method

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	

by which workers' representatives (unions) and producers (farmers/ranchers) negotiate the terms of employment, often resulting in a written contract setting out wages, hours and other conditions to be observed during a stipulated period. Collective bargaining must be carried out in good faith.

- **Living Wage:** The remuneration received for a standard workweek by a worker at a particular location sufficient to allow a decent standard of living for the worker and his or her family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transportation, clothing and other essential needs, including provision for unexpected events.
- **Routine audits in the workplace:** Routine third-party audits should assess that producers minimize exposure to disease, ensure access to safe inputs, provide clean facilities, document identification procedures, record the use of treatment products, and adequately train workers in the operation's protocols.
- **Small Winegrowers:** Small farming operations where land and labour productivity are comparatively low due to limited resources. Small-scale winegrowers often depend on agriculture as their primary livelihood and are at greater risk of vulnerability in the supply chain. Small-scale winegrowers rely mainly on family labour for operations. The size of small-scale winegrowers may vary depending on the type of holding. Contact the RVA for additional guidance on how to determine if your operation is considered a small winegrower under the RVA Certified.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	


- **Forced labour or human trafficking:** Any work performed by a person who has been recruited, transported, harboured or obtained through the use of threats, force, coercion or deception for the purpose of exploitation.

For the purposes of the Social Welfare section and the determination of the applicability of specific social criteria, the following definitions will be used to determine the scale of operations:

- **Small-scale winegrowers and/or winemakers**
 - ≤5 permanent workers and no more than 25 workers in total in the management unit at any one time (FT-USA, FFL)
- **Medium-scale winegrowers and/or winemakers**
 - 6-25 permanent workers and no more than 100 workers in total in the management unit at any one time
- **Large-scale winegrowers and/or winemakers**
 - All other situations

Soil health laboratory and field testing

RVA Certified requires two methods of soil health testing: a laboratory test (physicochemical and microbiological) and a field test. When used together, they provide a holistic and cost-effective method for understanding soil health and the impact of agricultural practices.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	

Soil health laboratory testing must be performed by a laboratory accredited by a national or international accreditation agency (ENAC, COFRAC, IPAC, UKAS, IOAS, IAS, ANSI, etc.) accredited organization such as a university, a C-MASC laboratory (*Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration*), etc.

Comentat [1]: Substituir aquest laboratori per la xarxa de laboratoris SFW (?)

Testing will be conducted in the initial certification process, and then every three years thereafter. Refer to the RVA Certified soil sampling protocol for more information on required soil testing.

Living wage calculation and definitions

- **Definition of Living Wage**

For the purposes of the RVA, a living wage is defined as:


A combination of wages and benefits that can provide food, water, housing, education, medical care, transportation, clothing and other essential needs, plus a 10% allowance for unexpected events and/or savings.

- **Living wage calculation**

The living wage should be calculated using one of the following methods or tools:

Agricultural Justice Project Living Wage Toolkit

- MIT calculator (Cost of living) + 10%, based on one working adult
- Global living wage benchmarks by region
- Calculation Manual of the Global Coalition for Living Wages
- Fair Labor Association Benchmarks

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	

- Anker Methodology of the World Coalition for Living Wages
- Calculation according to the SAI (Supreme Audit Institutions) Guidance Document for Social Responsibility

The definition of "basic needs salary" according to the SA8000 Social Accountability Standard is as follows:


A "**basic needs salary or wage**" allows workers to support half of an average-sized family above the poverty line, based on local prices near the workplace. Basic needs include essential expenses such as food, drinking water, clothing, shelter, transportation, education, a discretionary income, as well as legally mandated social benefits (which may include medical care, health insurance, unemployment insurance, retirement plan, etc.).

Audit requirements for all RVA modules

The auditor's remuneration is not based on incentives or on the outcome of inspections. All approved auditors must receive initial training, as well as continuing education and periodic evaluation.

Visual inspections should be approached collaboratively and with mutual respect towards suppliers at all levels, with a focus on education and sustainable remediation. Visits to holdings during the production cycle are preferred. The scope of the on-site audit should include, among others, a tour of the properties and a review of the following elements:

- Visual inspection of the treatment of workers and animals (if applicable to the entity);

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	

- Visual inspection of the environment of workers and animals (if applicable to the entity);
- Review of product labelling practices and procedures;
- Review of segregation and separation practices and procedures;
- Review of the implementation of traceable supply chain processes;
- Interviews with workers to ensure proper implementation of animal welfare traceability policies, procedures, documentation, training and legal compliance;
- Issues identified during the review of the document;
- Complaint policies;
- All other requirements required by RVA.

Documentation required to demonstrate compliance must be available for review during the audit or pre-audit process at all levels of the supply chain. In addition, auditors should be allowed to conduct private interviews of management and workers in the local language at all levels of the supply chain to assess proper implementation of animal welfare policies, procedures and documentation, training and compliance.

References and resources:

- **ISO 19011: Guidelines for the audit of management systems**
Section 7.2 "Determining the auditor's competence to meet the needs of the audit program". <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:19011:ed-2:v1:en>
- **GSCP (Global Social Compliance Program)**



ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	

Table A - Auditor core competence and baseline prerequisites (for social and environmental compliance assessment), e.g. 13

http://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/images/the_forum_images/strategic-focus/gscp/gscp-work/reference_tools/pdf/GSCP_Auditing_Competence.pdf


- **APSCA (Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors)** Competency framework for social compliance auditors

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	

13. Certification Resources

These documents are available for viewing and downloading at [Certificación RVA • Asociación Viticultura Regenerativa](#)

Document	Description
Application form	Complete this form when you are ready to apply for RVA Certified. This form applies only to producers.
Certification Body Requirements	Requirements for certifying bodies based on ISO 17065
Certification Body Application Form	Complete this form to apply to become an approved certification body.
Certified Products Spreadsheet	Brands and/or processors must complete this form for each product with an RVA Certified seal.
Communications and Marketing Guidelines	Guidance and requirements for communicating RVA participation and farm/product certification status
Cost structure and fees	Describes the estimated costs of certification for winegrowers, supply chain agents and brands.
Cost and fee Spreadsheet	Brands and/or processors can use this worksheet to calculate the total fees to be paid for the use of the RVA Certified seal.
Dispute Process	Process for submitting concerns, complaints, appeals or reports of misuse of the RVA Certified seal.
Labelling Guidelines	Guidelines and requirements for the labelling of certified products
License agreement	Required for any entity seeking to license the Regenerative Viticulture Alliance. RVA Certified™ (RVA) seal and/or trademark name.

ASOCIACIÓN VITICULTURA REGENERATIVA		
Norma de certificación para Viticultura Regenerativa		
Versión: 1	Actualizado: 29/07/2022	

Program manual	Expectations, agreements and additional guidance for participation in the Regenerative Viticulture Alliance Certified™ Program.
Regenerative Viticulture System Plan (RVSP)	Template for the RVSP to be submitted with the application
Required Certifications and Equivalentents	List of reference certifications required by area and recognized certifications that can be used to meet additional RVA criteria. The equivalency assessment helps you understand how to leverage your current certifications and identify gaps for RVA Certified compliance.
RVA Approved Certification	Names of the certification bodies approved to audit RVA Certified
Registration for supply chain agents form	Complete this form to register in the RVA as a supply chain agent.
Supply Chain Guidelines	Guidelines for maintaining and documenting an appropriate chain of custody throughout the product supply chain
Soil Health in the Field Test Worksheet	A template for recording soil health test observations in the field.
Soil health in the field Testing: Videos	Instructional videos on how to complete soil health tests in the field.
Soil Sampling Guidelines	Details on the soil sampling requirements of the soil health requirement and guidance on finding a laboratory and conducting tests